

the ward at the time and four nurses. They could not have a nurse at the bedside of every patient.

Surely it does not require a nurse "at the bedside of every patient" to prevent the neglect of dying patients. We agree that four nurses to fifty-two cases makes it quite impossible for the nurses to give adequate attention to the patients, and we hope Dr. Woodyat will insist upon a considerable increase of the nursing staff at Whitechapel Infirmary, so that the simple needs of the sick may be attended to. This Infirmary is recognised as an efficiently organised Training School by the General Nursing Council. We doubt, however, if the Council took any means to inspect institutions which they guarantee. This should be done for the protection of trainees, who should not work under conditions which make it impossible for them to give sufficient and tender care to the sick, and which may, through carelessness or overstrain, lay them open to censure by the coroner.

Speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Bath Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Hospital Fund, Mr. H. Chambers, who presided, said their deepest thanks and gratitude were due to the nurses, as he had heard from patients who spoke feelingly of their most tender, kind-hearted, and sympathetic attention in carrying out their duties. Their efficiency was above reproach, and careful nursing, constant attendance, and always a bright presence were met with in every case at their hospital. This was, he felt sure, the general opinion, not only among those who had had the misfortune to require medical aid, but among the Bath public generally. In fact, the Bath Royal United Hospital had become quite a household word.

Such expressions of appreciation must be very gratifying to the Matron and the Nursing Staff, and will give them heart of grace to continue their worthy services.

The Rochford correspondent of the *Weekly Dispatch* writes:—

"A 'ghostly' visitant (which may be either supernatural or a practical joke) has been troubling the inmates and staff of the local infirmary here for several weeks.

"The alleged ghost is said to appear in the guise of a Victorian Poor Law Sister known as 'Nurse Matilda.'

"There are more than twenty-five nurses in the institution. None is 'hysterical' or 'highly strung,' yet several, some with many

years' service, declare they have seen the apparition.

"One nursing Sister, with a splendid record, says she has seen the manifestation half a dozen times, twice in the last few days. A woman in the maternity ward, mistaking it for a mortal nurse, asked it to give her water!

"One of the nurses,' says Councillor Richard Taylor, of Southend, a prominent member of Rochford Guardians and a level-headed man, 'tells me she tried to speak to the ghostly visitant, but she was too terrified to open her mouth! All who have seen the apparition agree in their description of its height, appearance and dress. They say it is clad as a nurse used to be towards the close of the last century. A remarkable feature is that the manifestation is always heralded by the ringing of the house-service bell which is connected with each nurse's sleeping apartment. Shortly afterwards "Nurse Matilda" is seen by one or more of the staff, and the gas-light in the corridor, near the maternity ward, goes down. The doctor thinks a practical joker is at work, but our search of the building for the paraphernalia such a joker would have to wear to personate a Victorian Nursing Sister has revealed nothing beyond the modern uniforms worn by the staff.'"

January 11th, 1923, was a memorable day in the annals of the Gloucester District Nursing Society, for at its headquarters in Clarence Street the new Maternity wards, and the extensions of the Home were opened.

The City Member (Sir James Bruton) presided, and was supported by the Mayor and Mayoress, a number of city officials, Dr. C. V. Knight (Chairman of the General Committee District Nursing Society), and others.

The architect, Mr. Walter B. Wood, described the extension scheme. Three separate houses have been thrown into one. On the ground floor are the Committee room, the Superintendent's and the Nurses' Sitting Rooms, dining room, kitchen, etc. On the first floor is a self-contained maternity department, including two maternity wards and annexes, and a large sun balcony, and on the mezzanine an isolation ward, with bath and sanitary accommodation adjoining. On the second and third floors are 22 separate bedrooms for the nursing staff, and in the basement, cloakrooms, room for sterilising, box-rooms, etc.

Mr. Wood spoke of the cheerfulness of the Superintendent (Miss Brooks) and the whole of the nursing and domestic staffs during the discomfort of the alterations. They had

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